

What is claimed is:

1. A mechanism for providing positive retention and release of a socket or fitting on a power driven nut runner or nut setter utilizing a push rod that interfaces with a sliding post or pin having mating surfaces for developing movement in perpendicular directions.
2. The mechanism of claim 1 comprising first and second pieces, said first piece comprising a sliding shaft, said second piece comprising a post or pin, and said first and second pieces moving perpendicular to each other when the mating surfaces of said first and second pieces are engaged.
3. A method of shielding or partially encapsulating an exposed portion or button end of a push rod so that a positive retention mechanism is prevented from inadvertent activation by contacting said exposed portion thereby releasing a socket or fitting.
4. The mechanism of claim 2 wherein said sliding shaft has a full or partial cross section other than of round configuration for preventing a binding rotation when said sliding shaft interfaces with a similar cross sectional area inside a tool head or housing thereby allowing said mating surfaces which provide the perpendicular motion component to provide alignment for smooth motion.
5. The mechanism of claim 2 wherein said sliding shaft has a full or partial cross section of round configuration.
6. A method for retracting a socket retention post in a torque tool head comprising the steps of:
 - providing a spring-loaded pushbutton pin through the torque tool head which mates with a socket retention post;
 - depressing said spring-loaded pushbutton pin to draw said socket retention post inward via an inclined surface thereby allowing a socket to be removed or installed; and,

7. In combination in a torque tool socket release apparatus:
a sliding shaft and pin which move perpendicular to each other when their mating surfaces are engaged;
a positive retention mechanism; and,
a shielding member partially encapsulating the hand actuated or exposed end of said sliding shaft so that said positive retention mechanism does not inadvertently activate thereby releasing the socket.

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